A REAL GIRAFFE

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Illustrations
Arya Praharaj

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Akshay said, “I know what I want for my birthday. I want a real giraffe.”

“A real giraffe?” Papa looked at Mamma.

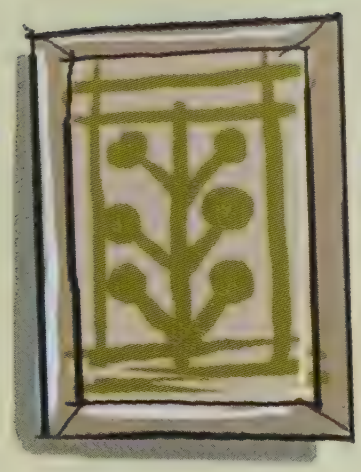
“A real giraffe?” Mamma looked at Papa.

“We need to discuss this. Separately.”

"We cannot have a real giraffe in the house,"
Mamma said to Papa. "It might break the roof!"

"If we keep it outside," Papa said, "it might eat up all the plants in the garden."

"Can't we give you something else," they said to Akshay. "A nice doggie? A cute kitty-cat? A talking parrot?"



"A nice doggie? A cute kitty-cat? A talking parrot? NO!" Akshay said. "I want a GIRA-FFE! A REAL GIRAFFE!"

"But...from where will we get a real giraffe?" Mamma said. "You can't buy one in the market."

"You can't order one on the internet, either," said Papa.

"I know where you can get a real giraffe," Akshay said. "You can get a real giraffe from the jungle. You told me that giraffes live in the jungle."

"Maybe we can get a giraffe from the jungle we visited. The jungle where the big tiger lives," Akshay suggested.

"Oh but there are no giraffes in that jungle," Papa said.

"Yes," Mamma added. "Giraffes live far away. They live in jungles in Africa."

"Why do giraffes live in Africa? Why don't they live here?" Akshay screamed. "I want a giraffe! I want a REAL GIRAFFE!"

Papa looked at Mamma. Mamma looked at Papa. Then Mama said, “Giraffes live in Africa because it is their home. They live there with their Papas and Mammas.”

"Yes!" Papa said. "Like you live with your Mamma and Papa in your home."

"Yes!" Mamma said. "If you take a giraffe away from its Mamma and Papa it will be very sad. Like the giraffe in the zoo is always sad."

"Oh-h," Akshay said. "The giraffe lives with its Papa and Mamma in Africa? Like I live with my Mamma and Papa?"

ZOO

Akshay begins to think.... “I don’t want to make it sad....” he declares. “All right you can give me a doggie ... but a really nice doggie!”

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